

REMARKS:

This paper is herewith filed in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on June 24, 2011 for the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application. This office action is a rejection of claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 16-17, 19-20 and 22-23 of the application.

More specifically, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 16-17, 19-20 and 22-23 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; rejected claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 16-17, 19-20, and 22-23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada (US7136047) in view of Comerford (US5963671). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 16-17, 19-20, and 22-23 have been amended. Claims 24-26 have been added. Support for the amendments can be found at least in the Abstract and page 3, lines 6-11; page 6, lines 11-12 and 31-34; page 7, lines 1-8; and page 8, lines 6-8 of the application as filed. No new matter is added.

Regarding the Rejection Under 35 USC 112, first paragraph

First, regarding the rejection of claims 1, 6, 11, 17, 20, and 23 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended at least in view of page 7, lines 1-8 of the Application as filed. The amendments are seen to overcome the rejection and the Examiner is requested to remove the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Regarding the Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 6, and 11 under 35 USC 103(a)

Although the rejections are not expressly or impliedly agreed with, in order to facilitate the prosecution of this patent application towards allowance the independent claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended in a somewhat similar fashion to at least recite similar features regarding a guiding agent of the electronic device teaching a user of the

electronic device a best way to proceed in order to achieve a intended operation of the device as in accordance with the exemplary embodiments of the invention. For example, claim 1 now recites that:

“A method comprising: receiving, by an electronic device, a command selected by a user of the electronic device with an input element of a dynamic input/output arrangement belonging to a touchscreen user interface of the electronic device, the command selected by the user to begin a particular operation of the device intended by the user; based on the selected command, determining, with a guiding agent of the electronic device, the intended operation and a command to select next in order to proceed towards achieving the intended operation with the device; based on the determining, increasing, with the guiding agent, a size of an input element associated with the command to select next on the touchscreen user interface and concurrently decreasing in size, from a size of an initial state, at least one area displayed on the touchscreen user interface not associated with an input element of the command to select next displayed on the touchscreen user interface of the device; and at least one of changing a descriptive text of the input element associated with the command to select next and displaying guiding text on the electronic device to teach the user regarding the command to select next to proceed towards achieving the intended operation with the device”

In accordance with the exemplary embodiments of the invention, a guiding agent of the electronic device can be used to at least teach a novice user of the device who has selected a command to begin a intended operation of the device, how to proceed towards achieving the intended operation. In accordance with the exemplary embodiments of the invention, there is determining, based on a command selected by a user, the intended operation and determining a command to select next in order to proceed towards achieving the intended operation with the device. Then, based on the determining, there is increasing a size of the command to select next displayed on the touchscreen user interface of the device and concurrently decreasing in size, from a size of an initial state, a size of at least one area displayed on the touchscreen user interface of the device not associated with an input element of the command to select next. In addition, in accordance with the exemplary embodiments, there is at least one of changing a descriptive text of the input element associated with the command to select next and displaying guiding text on the electronic device to teach the user regarding the command

to select next to proceed towards achieving the intended operation with the device. None of the references cited disclose or suggest at least these claimed features.

None of the References Cited Disclose Determining An Operation Intended By A User Of A Device To Be Performed By The Device Based On A Command Selected By The User To Begin The Operation

Shimada

In the rejection the Examiner asserts that Shimada discloses:

“automatically determining from an identity of the separate information unit whether an input entry is for performing a first function (Fig. 4D - entering numbers) by the device or for performing a second function by the device (Fig. 4C - entering English alphabets),” (page 4 of the Office Action).

Figures 4C and 4D of Shimada merely illustrate multitap keyboard entry interfaces for the English alphabet and for the input of numbers, respectively (see col. 3, lines 35-43). It is noted that in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action the Examiner states:

“Shimada disclose a device such as a cell phone that determines based on a selection in an input area which function (numeral entry or text entry) the user wants to operate in and displays the corresponding functional selections to the user,” and

“One skilled in the art it well aware of the basic and primary function of call phone which is to make a phone call (wireless communication). It is reasonable for one skilled in the art to incorporate the device to perform a wireless communication in view of Shimada having a numerical input mode and the general knowledge/use of a cell phone,” (page 9 of the Office Action).

The Examiner’s comments in the Response to Arguments section are not agreed with. In addition, the cited operations of Shimada do not relate to pressing any particular key in

the input area to enter either the English alphabet or number multitap keyboard of Figures 4D and 4C. Rather, any number of keys will result in the same multitap keyboard of Shimada. According to Shimada each of the keys in the input area are associated with groups of characters and the actuation of a key in this area results in a display of the group of characters associated with the actuated key (see Figure 3 and col. 6, lines 20-31). Clearly, such an actuated key to display a group of characters (i.e., a type of keyboard) as in Shimada does not disclose a command selected to **begin a particular operation** of the device intended by the user. Further, there is nothing in Shimada which relates to an operation of determining based on the actuated key, a command to select next in order to proceed towards achieving the intended operation. The display of the characters associated with the key in Shimada is seen to be the end result of actuating the key and there are no further operations performed based on the actuated key of Shimada.

Furthermore, for at least the reasons stated above, one skilled in the art would not find it obvious based on the displayed group of characters of Shimada that a determination can somehow be made as to a next command to select in order to proceed towards achieving the intended operation. In the Response to Arguments, as stated above, the Examiner appears to assert that if the actuated key is associated with a group of numbers then a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a user of the device in Shimada must be actuating the key to make a phone call. The Examiner is respectfully directed to where Shimada states that the device can be a personal digital assistant (PDA). Clearly, if a user actuates a key on the PDA which simply results in the display of a list of numbers a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that any key actuated on a PDA is most likely not to make a phone call. Thus, for this reason alone Shimada clearly does not disclose an operation of determining based on the actuated key, a next command to select in order to proceed towards achieving the intended operation.

For at least these reasons Shimada does not disclose or suggest amended claim 1.

Further, in the Office Action the Examiner states:

“Shimada does not teach explicitly teach the device to perform a wireless communication or the device to be used as a guiding agent to teach a user of the device, decreasing in size, from a size of an initial state, at least an area displayed on the device not needed for performing the first function by the device or wherein the sizes of the emphasized input elements vary on a case-specific basis depending on respective probabilities of the information units associated with the input elements,” (emphasis added), (page 5 of the Office Action).

The Examiner cites Comerford as allegedly overcoming the admitted shortfalls of Shimada, as stated above. It is disagreed that Comerford overcomes any shortfalls of Shimada.

Comerford

Comerford discloses:

“In addition to enhancing all characters of the subset, particular emphasis can be placed on the most likely character in the subset to be selected. Where the most likely character is a letter, duplicates of other letters of the subset, symbols identifying control functions for selection, and probable multiletter combinations, including full words and word endings, may be displayed in a cluster around the most likely to be selected letter to facilitate quick selection,” (emphasis added), (col. 2, lines 15-24); and “In the present embodiment of the invention, the change in probabilities is determined by consulting trigram tables. The entries of trigram tables are based on the probability of a letter being selected under conditions that takes into account the previous two selections made by the user,” (emphasis added), (col. 4, lines 1-5); and

“A trigram character prediction table is a three dimensional array. Each element of the array is a character. That character can be "found" by specifying its three indices in the array. Since the array indices are integers, and the text a person is constructing is composed of character symbols, a conversion must be made from symbol to integer,” (emphasis added), (col. 4, lines 55-60).

Similar to Shimada, Comerford does not disclose an operation, based on a selected command, of determining a intended operation and a command to select next in order to proceed towards achieving the intended operation with the device.

Rather, as stated above, the trigram character prediction table of Comerford relates to determining a probability of a letter being selected by taking into account two previous selections made by the user. Further, the reference to the control function in Comerford, as stated above, cannot be seen to relate to a command selected by a user of a device or a particular operation intended by the user to be achieved with the device. As there is no further description of this control function in Comerford the control function is seen to relate to the control key 18 of Comerford which simply appears to be a backspace key (see col. 3, line 6 and Figures 1, 2 and 3).

Furthermore, it is submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the trigram prediction table of Comerford is not teaching a user. Rather, the prediction table of Comerford is simply determining a probability of a letter to be selected based on two prior entries by the user. For this reason, Comerford is seen to teach away from at least where claim 1 relates to teaching a user regarding a command to select next to proceed towards achieving an intended operation with a device.

For at least these reasons, Comerford does not overcome at least the shortfalls of Shimada as stated above.

Therefore, even if the references were somehow combined, which is not agreed to as suggested, the proposed combination would still not disclose or suggest claim 1. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove the rejection and allow claim 1.

In addition, for similar reasons, the foregoing amendments to the independent claims 6 and 11 also place these claims in condition for allowance in view of the references cited. Therefore the Examiner is requested to remove the rejections and allow these claims.

In addition, for at least the reasons stated above, none of the reference cited disclose or suggest at least where amended claims 16 and 22 similarly recite in part “increasing in size the guiding text displayed on the touchscreen user interface of the device to teach the

user regarding the command to select next to proceed towards achieving the intended operation with the device.” The Examiner is requested to remove the rejection and allow claims 16 and 22.

Further, for at least the reasons stated above, none of the references cited disclose or suggest where claim 10 recites in part “wherein the at least one memory including the computer program code is configured, with the at least one processor, to cause the electronic device to increase in size the guiding text displayed on the touchscreen user interface of the device to teach the user regarding the command to select next to proceed towards achieving the intended operation with the device.” Thus, the Examiner is requested to remove the rejection and allow claim 10.

Further, for at least the reasons stated above, none of the reference cited disclose or suggest at least where amended claim 19 recite in part “displaying guiding text of the guiding feature on the touchscreen user interface of the electronic device to teach the user of the electronic device regarding the command to select next to proceed towards achieving the intended operation with the device.” The Examiner is requested to remove the rejection and allow claim 19.

In addition, for at least the reason that claims 2-3, 16-17 and 24; claims 7, 10, 19-20 and 25; and claims 12, 22-23 and 26 depend from claims 1, 6, and 11, respectively, the references cited can not be seen to disclose or suggest these claims and the rejections of these claims should be removed.

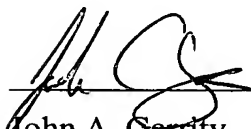
Based on the above explanations and arguments, it is clear that the references cited cannot be seen to disclose or suggest claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 16-17, 19-20, and 22-26. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 16-17, 19-20, and 22-26, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 16-17, 19-20, and 22-26 as now presented for examination.

Application Serial No. 10/672,458
Art Unit 2175

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted:




John A. Garrity

28 October 2011
Date

Reg. No.: 60,470

Customer No.: 10,948

HARRINGTON & SMITH ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LLC

4 Research Drive

Shelton, CT 06484-6212

Telephone: (203)925-9400

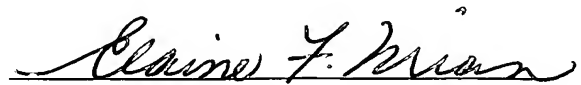
Facsimile: (203)944-0245

email: jgarrity@hspatent.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

10/28/2011
Date


Name of Person Making Deposit